

Message Text

SECRET

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43/50

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O R 201100Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8379

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 1459

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS SU

SUBJ: KHARTOUM TERRORISTS; SUGGESTED PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REF: STATE 130677

1. APPRECIATE TIMELY INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL RE BSO CASE AND FULLY AGREE ANY WRITTEN COMMUNICATION FROM PRESIDENT TO NIMEIRI WOULD BE UNWISE. REGRET I FAILED MAKE CLEAR THAT WHAT I HAD IN MIND WAS PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT WHICH I WOULD DELIVER ORALLY REPEAT ORALLY ONLY. CONTINUE BELIEVE: (A) MY APPOINTMENT WITH NIMEIRI CANNOT BE GUARANTEED DUE LOCAL GROUND RULES UNLESS I HAVE SOME PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO CONVEY; AND (B) REFTEL INSGUCTION N11- VIOUSLY WOULD CARRY GREATER WEIGHT WITH NIMEIRI IF CARRYING PRESIDENTIAL IMPRIMATUR. MOREOVER, WOULD NOT PRESIDENT HIMSELF WISH OUR ACTION IN THIS CASE CLEARLY TO MANIFEST SETTLED

INTEREST AND CONCERN AT HIGHEST LEVEL USG? THIS CONNECTION, DEPT AWARE ARABS CUSTOMARILY "OVER-PERSONALIZE" TOP-LEVEL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONTACT WHICH IS FACTOR WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND PARTICULARLY

IN CASE INVOLVING PRESIDENTS LATE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE.

2. FOR FOREGOING REASONS, RECOMMEND I BE INSTRUCTED TELL NIMEIRI I HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED BY PRESIDENT NIXON DELIVER PERSONAL,

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ORAL MESSAGE ON BSO OUTCOME. I WOULD THEN PARAPHRASE FOR NIMEIRI

SUBSTANCE PARA 3 KHARTOUM 1276, OMITTING HONORIFICS AND ANYTHING ELSE WHICH MIGHT SMACK OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS. I WOULD, OF COURSE, LEAVE NO REPEAT NO RECORD WITH NIMEIRI.

3. RE POSSIBLE PRESS ATTENTION HERE TO MY MEETING WITH NIMEIRI, I HAD PLANNED SUGGEST TO HIM THAT IT BE CHARACTERIZED (SHOULD GOS WISH PUBLICIZE CALL) AS SESSION DEVOTED TO BRIEFING HIM ON PRESIDENTS MIDEAST VISIT AND OUTLOOK FOR MOSCOW TRIP. KHARTOUM 1428 ACCORDINGLY REQUESTED SPECIFIC GUIDANCE ON BOTH SUBJECTS. WHILE CHARACTERIZATION MEETING AS LIMITED TO "US-SUDANESE RELATIONS GENERALLY" WOULD LOOK PRETTY THIN HERE VIEW TIMING, REFERENCE TO TWO MAJOR CURRENT EVENTS INVOLVING PRESIDENT NIXON PERSONALLY WOULD, I THINK, BE WIDELY ACCEPTED AS ADEQUATE JUSTIFICATION FOR MY CALL. APPRECIATE RECEIVING APPROPRIATE GUIDANCE PROMPTLY.

4. WHILE AGREE THAT VERDICT OF NOT GUILTY IS UNLIKELY, I THINK WE SHOULD COORDINATE CLOSELY ANY IMMEDIATE DEPT PRESS STATEMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, NIMEIRI HAS BEEN QUOTED IN PRESS AS STATING THAT, IF COURT ACQUITS ACCUSED, ATTORNEY GENERAL WILL DEMAND NEW TRIAL (BEIRUT 1665, NOTAL). WE PRESUMABLY WOULD NOT WISH TAKE PRECIPITATE ACTION WHICH MIGHT CONVEIVABLY MAKE IT HARDER FOR NIMEIRI ADOPT SUCH COURSE. I THEREFORE SUGGEST INITIAL RPT INITIAL DEPT PRESS GUIDANCE BE COUCHED IN GENERAL TERMS. WE WILL OF COURSE SUBMIT SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS BY IMMEDIATE MESSAGE AS SOON AS VERDICT ANNOUNCED. IN EVENT GOS DOES NOT IMMEDIATELY ANNOUNCE NEW TRIAL, CONCUR I SHOULD BE CALLED HOME. WISH REEMPHASIZE, HOWEVER, THAT NOT GUILTY VERDICT SEEMS ALMOST INCONCEIVABLE.
BREWER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, POLITICAL TRIALS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KHARTO01459
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740161-0747
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740629/aaaaayng.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: STATE 130677
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <04 APR 2002 by izenbei0, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <18 JUN 2002 by golinofr>; APPROVED <19 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHARTOUM TERRORISTS; SUGGESTED PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE
TAGS: PINS, SU, US, BSO, (NIXON, RICHARD M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005